



Senator Charles Schumer, Chairman
Senate Committee on Rules and Administration
305 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC20510

May 24, 2010

Dear Chairman Schumer:

Enclosed is a copy of my statement for the record on behalf of the nine hundred blue-collar workers who are employees at the U.S. Government Printing Office and that are represented by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. We respectfully request that this statement be made a part of the written record on the nomination of William J. Boarman to be the next Public Printer of the United States.

Fraternally Submitted,

George E. Lord
George E. Lord
Vice President

**TESTIMONY OF GEORGE E. LORD
VICE PRESIDENT, LOCAL 285M
GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON SENATE RULES AND
ADMINISTRATION
ON NOMINATION OF
WILLIAM J. BOARMAN
TO THE OFFICE OF
PUBLIC PRINTER OF THE UNITED STATES**

May 25, 2010

My name is George E. Lord, Vice President of Local 285M, Graphic Communications Conference of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and have held the position of Chairman of the Joint Council of Unions/GPO since January 1982 which is an organization that unites for collective bargaining purposes ten labor organizations representing all of blue-collar employees, both skilled and semi-skilled occupations who work for the Public Printer. Union labor has played a decisive role at GPO almost from its inception. In the nineteenth century, GPO sought out the most skilled printers it could find and to get them hired union workers and paid union wages. The Keiss Act, 44 USC 305, enacted in 1924, was one of the earliest examples of Federal labor legislation. It recognized GPO's reliance on highly skilled trades persons by providing for wage conferences between representatives of workers and the Public Printer to fix their compensation.

We are proud that many of our members have devoted most, if not all, of their working lives to GPO. We are also proud of the crucial role we perform in printing and distributing information collected and produced by the Federal Government not only to the millions of citizens we all serve but to the members and employees of the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Branches that together constitute the government of the United States.

It is the Government Printing Office's mission to provide printing and publishing services to the rest of the Federal Government and disseminate information to the People of the United States. In the past, the GPO did this by running one of the most effective and efficient procurement operations in the Government and by maintaining an up to date printing plant which must be in place to provide the Congress with overnight, accurate printing services it requires.

Short-term bragging rights, not concerns for the public fisc, have played a critical part in the failures of recent Public Printers to bring the Office into the twenty-first century. We, the employees do not question their motives but we certainly have and will continue to question their methods and judgement. We believe their judgements have resulted in the squandering of scarce Federal dollars that should have been used to plan for a more thought out transition into the digital age. The current Administration has created the largest increase in the overhead costs in the history of this Agency over-burdening every revenue-generating operation to the point they are forced to ignore their own short-term and long-term needs. Also, their methods have created a sea-change in the attitudes and confidence of each and every employee that this Administration never considered

the employees its most valued asset. The lack of good employee relations has created the need for employees to seek other avenues to get their issues resolved such as: EEO complaints and/or submitting grievances through the collective bargaining agreement.

The President of the United States has nominated William J. Boarman to be the next Public Printer to head up the U.S. Government Printing Office. We, the employees, salute President Obama's choice to head this Agency not only because he most definitely meets the requirements of 44 USC but brings to the office a wide-range of experience within the printing industry and his first-hand knowledge of the collective bargaining process. He has represented employees for over thirty years in both the private and public sectors within the printing industry. He brings with him the full knowledge of the very laws and regulations that all Public Printers have been required to follow. The nominee also brings to this Agency many years of experience in the art of finding solutions to the problems between employees and their employers. Also, the many years of managing the finances of employee pensions will be of great value while managing through GPO's financial systems and processes. If confirmed by the United States Senate, he will be at a great advantage point on his first day as Public Printer that no other nominee experienced on their first day in most recent times.

Finally, one only has to imagine, the pride and self-satisfaction that each and every employee is experiencing to see one of their own rise to the office of Public Printer of the United States. We can see firsthand the results of hard work, dedication and as an employee we can achieve if we just follow his example. We are filled with hope of a new beginning that demonstrate the employee's hopes and dreams of success along with the Agency's successes can be one of the same. All of the ingredients to this recipe for success are at hand with this nominee and we, the members of Graphic Communications Conference of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, strongly recommend that this Committee vote to confirm.